

East Longmeadow Recreation Department

Violence in Youth Sports Programs

Policy

Submitted: November 1999
Adopted from information
From the West Springfield
Recreation Department Policy

East Longmeadow Recreation Department

Adopted No Violence Policy for the Recreation Department

Sportsman, as defined in Webster's dictionary, is a person who is enthusiastic about and participates in sports. One who abides by the rules of a contest and accepts victory or defeat graciously.

Hereby, the Recreation Commission of the Town of East Longmeadow has adopted a policy for **NO** tolerance to violence in its Recreational programs. The Commission along with their employees and volunteer coaches have the responsibility to adhere to and enforce this policy. It will be enforced by the Commission through the Recreation Department.

Code of Ethics ***Participant Responsibilities***

It is the responsibility of the official to administer the rules and regulations of this policy in accordance to the procedures outlined below:

OFFICIAL: It is the responsibility of the Official to immediately implement the penalties set forth in the Code of Conduct up to and including suspensions.

It is also the responsibility of the official to inform the involved party and all of the coaches of the infraction and the minimum penalty that is being instituted. (If a coach is the offender they need not be informed a second time.)

When, in the opinion of the official, rules stated in this policy are violated, the official shall notify, in writing, the Supervisor of Officials and the League Director or President of the nature of the infraction(s) and the minimum penalty(s) within 24 hours of the incident.

Any participant suspended from a game is to immediately leave the field of play or any area where the participant's presence might in any way disrupt the remainder of the activity.

COACH: It is the responsibility of the coaches of a contest to notify the League Director, President as well as the Supervisor of Officials, in writing, of all infractions of the Code of Ethics within 24 hours of the infraction. This includes, but is not limited to, infractions brought to the attention of the coaches by the game official or umpire.

Any participant suspended from a game is to immediately leave the field of play or any area where the participant's presence might in any way disrupt the remainder of the activity.

SUPERVISOR OF OFFICIALS:

It is the responsibility of the Supervisors of Officials to compile the reports submitted by the official and coaches of any incident and forward them to the Recreation Department along with his/her own report on the incident.

It is expected that the Supervisor of Officials will submit these reports of violations of the Code of Ethics within 48 hours of the incident.

ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS / PRESIDENTS:

The Association is responsible to submit all reports of any incident involving the violation of the Code of Ethics to the Recreation Department

within 48 hours of the incident. This is not limited to violations reported by officials.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT:

The Recreation Department will investigate all reported violations of the “Code of Conduct”.

Review all reports, interview necessary parties, schedule necessary meetings, assess penalties and refer to Recreation Commission or Town Legal Department when appropriate.

The time frames stated will be strictly adhered to. The participant involved **will remain suspended** from team activities until the incident has been reviewed and a decision rendered by the Recreation Department. The Recreation Department **will not** review any incident until it has received reports from officials, coaches, Supervisor of Officials and Association Directors / Presidents.

Town of East Longmeadow
Recreation Department

Code of Ethics
Definitions

Recreation Department:	Municipal agency charged with planning, conducting and evaluating recreation, leisure and cultural activities for an in the name of the Town.
Recreation Commission:	Appointed by the Board of Selectmen to make policies and direct the implementation of said policies (after the review of the Board of Selectmen).
Recreation Director:	Administrator who implements and oversees policies.
Associations:	Adult support groups who work together with the Recreation Commission in order to provide wholesome recreation programs for Town residents.
Coach:	A person approved by the Recreation Department as a team spokesperson.
Player:	A person who physically participates in the game or is on the roster.
Spectator:	A person who watches the games for entertainment with no physical involvement.
Official:	A person on the field or court to administer the official rules.
Participant:	Any coach, player, spectator, official / staff personnel, or any other person involved in any way with any class, sporting or non-sporting event sponsored or co-sponsored by the Town of East Longmeadow Recreation Department.
Participation:	Any involvement in Town of East Longmeadow Recreation Department sponsored or co-sponsored activities such as spectating, officiating, playing, coaching, registering for classes, or attending a sporting or non-sporting event.
Recreation Activities:	Any class or sporting or non-sporting event sponsored by the Town of East Longmeadow Recreation Department.

Field Supervisor

League Director

Program Coordinator: A town employee, paid or unpaid, in charge of the operation and staff of a scheduled game, match or event.

Recreation Employee: A paid or unpaid representative of the Recreation Department providing services to the events, fields, parks and courts.

Law Enforcement Officer

Emergency Services: Town of East Longmeadow Police or Fire Department, Hampden County Sheriff's Department, Massachusetts State Police, professional hired emergency attendants in the scope of employment or in emergency situations.

CODE OF CONDUCT

1	No Participant Shall (Abuse of Official)	At any time lay a hand upon, shove, strike, or threaten an official, coach, player, or spectator. Officials are required to suspend any player who violates this rule immediately from play and report players to the Recreation Department. Such players, shall remain suspended for the maximum penalty period or until reinstated by the Recreation Department.
	Minimum Penalty	Suspension from two league games, placed on probation for the remainder of the season.
	Maximum Penalty	Suspension from all recreational activities for one year and placed on probation the following year.

2	No Participant Shall (Official's Decisions)	Refuse to abide by an official's decision. Officials are required to suspend any player violating this rule immediately from further play and report such player to the Recreation Department. Such player shall remain suspended for the maximum penalty period or until reinstated by the Recreation Department.
	Minimum Penalty	Placed on probation for the remainder of the season.
	Maximum Penalty	Suspension from all recreational activities for one year and placed on probation the following year.

3	No Participant Shall (Obscene Gestures)	Use of obscene gestures or objectionable demonstrations of dissent concerning an official's decision. The degree of the infraction of this principle of good sportsmanship shall, in the official's judgement, draw the following:
	Minimum Penalty	Immediate removal from the game.
	Maximum Penalty	Suspension from all recreational activities for one year and placed on probation the following year.

4	No Participant Shall (Official Decisions)	Discuss with an official in any manner the decision reached by an official. The coach or team captain shall be exempt from this rule. The degree of infraction of this principle of good sportsmanship shall, in the official's judgement, draw the following:
	Minimum Penalty	Warning by the official
	Maximum Penalty	Removal from the game.

5	No Participant Shall (Unnecessary Roughness)	Use unnecessary roughness in the play of a game against an opposing player. Officials are required to suspend a player who violates this rule immediately
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		from further play and report such players to the Recreation Department. Such player shall remain suspended for the maximum penalty period or until reinstated by the Recreation Department
	Minimum Penalty	Placed on probation for the remainder of the season.
	Maximum Penalty	Suspension from all recreational activities for one year and placed on probation the following year.

6	No Participant Shall (Fighting)	Fight, physically attack as an aggressor upon any player, coach, official, or spectator. Officials are required to suspend a player who violates this rule immediately from further play and report the player to the Recreation Department. Such player shall remain suspended for the maximum penalty period or until reinstated by the Recreation Department.
	Minimum Penalty	Suspension from two league games, placed on probation for the remainder of the season.
	Maximum Penalty	Suspension from all town recreational activities for an indefinite period of time. Referred to town attorney for possible criminal complaints.

7	No Participant Shall (Abusive Language)	Use abusive language or verbally attack another player, coach, official, or spectator. Officials are required to suspend any player who violates this rule immediately from further play and report such player to the Recreation Department. Such player shall remain suspended for the maximum penalty or until reinstated by the Recreation Department.
	Minimum Penalty	Removal from the game.
	Maximum Penalty	Suspension from all recreational activities for one year and placed on probation the following year.

8	No Participant Shall (Alcohol or Drug Use)	Appear on the court or field of play under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
	Minimum Penalty	Suspension from two league games, placed on probation for the remainder of the season.
	Maximum Penalty	Suspension from all recreational activities for one year and placed on probation the following year.

9	No Participant Shall (Smoking Policy)	Smoke while in any facility or on school grounds used for town recreational programs or coming off or going on the field of play, or while on the field of play
	Minimum Penalty	Warning by the Official.
	Maximum Penalty	Removal from the game or any penalties that might be associated with use of drugs on school property.

10	No Participant Shall (Open Container Law)	Be cited in violation of the Town of East Longmeadow's open container or other alcohol / drug laws on town property.
	Minimum Penalty	Suspension from one league game, placed on probation for the remainder of the season and subject to any penalties associated with town or state laws.
	Maximum Penalty	Suspension from all town events and / or recreational activities for one year and probation the following year.

11	No Participant Shall (Three Strikes)	Be in violation of any three of the above conduct rules. Three violations in any class, sporting or non-sporting event sponsored or co-sponsored by the Town of East Longmeadow Recreation Department will result in the following:
	Minimum Penalty	Suspension from any Town of East Longmeadow Recreation sponsored / co-sponsored events or activities for one full year and two years probation.
	Maximum Penalty	Suspension from any Town of East Longmeadow Recreation sponsored / co-sponsored events or activities for indefinite period of time.

While on Probation, any participant who violates any of the above conduct rules shall be subject to suspension for one to five years.

In any instance where there is a difference in these stated minimum penalties and a league or association's minimum penalties, the more stringent of the two would take precedent.

Town of East Longmeadow
Recreation Department
Coaches' Code of Conduct

1. I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my players ahead of a personal desire to win.
2. I will treat each player as an individual, remembering the large range of emotional and physical development for the same age group.
3. I will do my best to provide a safe playing situation for my players.
4. I will promise to review and practice the basic first aid principles needed to treat injuries of my players.
5. I will do my best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all my players.
6. I will lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all my players.
7. I will provide a sports environment for my team that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and I will refrain from their use prior to and at all youth sports events.
8. I will be knowledgeable in the rules of each sport that I coach, and I will teach these rules to my players.
9. I will use those coaching techniques appropriate for each of the skills that I teach.
10. I will remember that I am a youth sports coach, and that the game is for children and not adults.

Town of East Longmeadow
Recreation Department
Player's Code of Conduct

1. I will encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches, officials and parents at every game and practice by demonstrating good sportsmanship.
2. I will attend every practice and game that I can, and will notify my coach if I cannot.
3. I will expect to receive a fair and equal amount of playing time.
4. I will do my very best to listen and learn from my coaches.
5. I will treat my coaches, other players, officials and fans with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or abilities and I will expect to be treated accordingly.
6. I deserve to have fun during my sports experience and will alert parents or coaches if it stops being fun!
7. I deserve to play in an environment that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and expect adults to refrain from their use at all youth sport events.
8. I will encourage my parents to be involved with my team in some capacity because it's important to me.
9. I will do my very best in school.
10. I will remember that sports is an opportunity to learn and have fun.

Town of East Longmeadow
Recreation Department
Spectators' Code of Conduct

1. Remember that children play organized sports for their own FUN! They are not there to entertain you, and they are not miniature pro athletes.
2. Be on your best behavior. Do not use profane language or harass players, coaches, or officials.
3. Applaud good plays by your own team AND the visiting team.
4. Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them, there would be no game.
5. Never ridicule or scold a child for making a mistake during a competition.
6. Condemn the use of violence in all forms.
7. Respect the official's decisions.
8. Encourage players to always play according to the rules.
9. Support the concept of a sports environment that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and refrain from their use at all youth sports events.